

TITLE

Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations to Support Information Dissemination (InfoOakland Web Tool)

THEME

Disseminate Credible Information to Guide Policy, Practice and Other Actions to Improve the Nation's Health

KEYWORDS

hazard tracking, health outcome tracking, indicators, community level assessment and population health

BACKGROUND

The California Environmental Health Tracking Program (CEHTP) has been engaged in a variety of assessment, planning and implementation activities intended to address the environmental health information needs of a range of audiences in the state. In general, policy makers, community-based organizations and the public tend to seek scientifically valid and personally relevant indicators that provide contextual information regarding health and environmental conditions and trends in their community. In the context of specific pilot demonstration projects, the project advisory committee also is interested in integrating social and economic indicators for policy-relevance and to accommodate a broader population and community health perspective.

Placing exposures and health outcomes in a community context reflect a core interest among our stakeholders of identifying multiple pressure points or levels of intervention. This conceptualization of health promotion is consistent with the notion of multiple levels of causality and intervention—policy, community, organizational and individual levels. Since our stakeholders are active in developing interventions at each of these levels, our tracking network should be commensurate with the task.

The CEHTP, in collaboration with InfoOakland (a non-profit dedicated to community-level improving knowledge and information systems) and the Alameda County pilot project advisory committee, is developing a Web-based information tool intended to support community level information needs. This tool integrates hazard tracking, health outcome tracking and socio-economic indicators. The tool is designed to enable community level assessment and provides a number of information dissemination features towards these ends. These features have been used to support community health advocacy and policy development.

OBJECTIVE(S)

The purpose of this session is to: 1) demonstrate the tool; 2) provide examples of how the outputs are utilized to support community level advocacy and interventions; and 3) discuss how such a tool can support broader concepts in public health such as community-based participatory research, environmental health indicators and population health promotion.

The author will also approach other EPHT grantees to determine if substantially similar work is being performed elsewhere; if there is an appropriate fit, a third presenter may be added.

METHOD(S)

The demonstration will be performed by the developer, InfoOakland, in real time. InfoOakland will provide examples of common outputs (reports, maps, etc) utilized by users. This demonstration will include presentation of information developed by the CEHTP. A representative from the CEHTP will discuss how the collaboration supports broader program goals.

RESULT(S)

The audience will develop a greater appreciation of approaches to sharing tracking information with third-party information providers. In addition, approaches for formatting and disseminating scientifically valid and personally relevant indicators that provide contextual information regarding community health and environmental conditions will be summarized.

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION(S)

Discussion among presenters and participants will be encouraged.

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